

# City of West Hollywood Library

## About the Art

The new West Hollywood Library features two major art installations from renowned artists.



Artist David Wiseman attaching leaves  
Photo by Mark Hanauer

### **"Platanus bibliotechalis"** by David Wiseman

This artwork, located in the grand interior stairwell of the Library, reflects the relationship between the New West Hollywood Library and West Hollywood Park. Clad in cast porcelain sycamore bark, tree trunks emerge from the walls, as plastered steel and bronze branches continue their ascent toward the skylight and sprout copper, brass, and steel leaves as well as porcelain seed pods. The site specific installation engages with the large air space above the stairway, providing a link between the park that surrounds it and the library itself. This project is inspired by the ancient indigenous sycamores of the region, whose ghostly branches emerge through the walls and grow sixty feet into the volume of the space, welcoming people to the library collection as they reach toward the light above.



Artist Shepard Fairey applying final touches  
Photo by Stuart Denenberg

### **"Peace, Freedom, and Creativity"** by Shepard Fairey

This mural, located near the City Council Chambers entrance on the Auto-Court level, provides a deeper contextual link between the library and the community it serves. Through online and paper surveys, the community was solicited to give input used to inform the imagery and iconography depicted in the mural. The artist, known for layering of images, has created a deeply dimensional "portrait" of West Hollywood that reflects historical and architectural elements of the City. This work provides a historically-significant and community-based project that is not unlike a contemporary version of the highly-regarded Works Progress Administration (WPA) murals completed in the 1930's in public buildings throughout the United States.